

# Bill 14 (2020) Testimony

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**MISC. COM. 386**

PSW

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:58 PM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Adrian Cravalho  
Phone 8089542911  
Email adrian.cravalho@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Aloha Councilmembers,

Written  
Testimony

My name is Adrian Cravalho and I have been a member of the Honolulu Fire Department since 2007. Currently, I am a Fire Fighter 3 assigned to Rescue 2, 3rd platoon, located at the Aikahi Fire Station. I am writing you this testimony to extend my support of Bill 14 (2020). I have been involved with the HFD rescue program for over 10 years and I feel this bill is necessary to ensure the SAFETY of the current and future fire fighters that serve as rescue specialists for the HFD. Unfortunately, I have seen tragedy in my career and have witnessed some near misses. I feel without the necessary training for rescue personnel, there will be more tragedy. I ask that you support this bill, so the fire fighters who are putting their lives on the line to help those in need will have the necessary training to complete the job SAFELY and return home to their families at the end of their shift.

Mahalo,  
Adrian Cravalho

Testimony  
Attachment

Accept Terms  
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 8:42 AM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Bill Melemai  
Phone 282-2776  
Email mele.magic@hotmail.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH PublicSafety  
Committee  
Agenda Item Bill 14 2020  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization

Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony I strongly support Bill 14 (2020) and applaud council members ANDERSON, ELEFANTE, FUKUNAGA, KOBAYASHI, MANAHAN, MENOR, PINE, TSUNEYOSHI, and WATERS for your affirmative votes on 5-20-20. Final passage of Bill 14 (2020) will ensure the safety of not only Rescue personnel but also Fire Company personnel.

Testimony Attachment

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IP: 192.168.200.67

The City and County of Honolulu  
City Council Committee on Public Safety and Welfare

Bill 14 Testimony  
06/17/20

Aloha Honolulu City Council Members,

This written testimony is in continued full SUPPORT of Bill 14. We, the Rescue Captains of the Honolulu Fire Department along with the entire Rescue Program continue to seek the passing of this bill. Our message has remained the same and consistent from day 1.

The facts are these:

- Two Bill 14 readings (2/19, 5/20) have passed with unanimous decisions by the City Council.
- Two Bill 14 readings (2/19, 5/20) have gone with the Honolulu Fire Department Executive Administration testifying in OPPOSITION of Bill 14.
- Committee on Public Safety and Welfare meeting (2/27). Honolulu Fire Department Executive Staff agrees that Technical Rescue training is needed for our Rescue personnel.
  - As stated in the Committee Report - Fire Chief Neves acknowledged that the HFD needed to better communicate with its Fire Captains assigned to its two rescue companies, and he indicated that additional conversations would be had to address and attempt to resolve their concerns.
- "Road to Rescue 3" plan established by Program Project Manager that primarily focuses on staffing Rescue 3.
- Components and timelines of the "Road to Rescue 3" plan was written and submitted without the agreement of the six Rescue Captains or the Rescue Program.
- No training has been initiated or resumed for the current incumbent Rescue personnel (Rescue 1 and Rescue 2) or personnel which would back up the frontline staff.
- No minimum qualifications and position descriptions for the current personnel established or updated.
- A clear administrative-management structure for the Rescue Program has been defined.
- Nearly 8 months have gone by without the necessary training to keep the public and our Rescue personnel safe.

It is clear that despite the attempt to listen to our concerns, the HFD Administration's actions remain this: Open another Technical Rescue Company WITHOUT doing the necessary steps to ensure proper training for current members, establish suitable living conditions for the personnel, and do it in a timeframe that is NOT SAFE OR EFFECTIVE FOR THE PUBLIC.

Thank you for your time and support.  
Bryce Hiraki  
Captain, Rescue 2 / 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon  
Honolulu Fire Department  
[bhiraki@honolulu.gov](mailto:bhiraki@honolulu.gov)  
(808) 392-0851 cell.



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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7:10 PM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Catherine Kukea  
Phone (808)343-1040  
Email ckukea@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 11-30-1973  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill14 HFD Rescue training  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony As a wife of a current HFD rescue squad member I strongly support Bill14. Opening a new rescue unit without the proper or sufficient amount of training for those rescue personnel is unacceptable. In their line of specialized work where they are saving lives and risking their own, proper training is extremely important.

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IP: 192.168.200.67

Honolulu City Council  
Public Safety & Welfare Committee  
Testimony for June 18th 2020, 2:30 p.m.

Aloha Council Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of **Bill 14**. I am again voicing my support for Bill 14 because the Honolulu Fire Department's administration continues to ignore the advice of the current 6 Rescue Captains who are subject matter experts with regards to rescue operations, and they are willing to put firefighter and public safety at risk.

We have repeatedly raised our concerns with the HFD administration and they pretend that we're in agreement, but we're not. We have testified before this Committee before, so I will try to summarize our main concerns:

- Almost one-third of current Rescue personnel are newly promoted and in order to best serve the public we need to train them adequately, before we can even consider training a whole new crew.
- We have a training plan based on years of rescue experience and best practice that all of the Rescue Captains have agreed to, but which doesn't fit the HFD administration's accelerated timeframe, so instead they want us to reduce minimum qualifications and training standards. We are unwilling to reduce these standards because we know it will ultimately jeopardize lives.

Two other points that should be brought to light are that 1) We have *never seen any data* that supports the need for a third rescue company. This leads us to believe that there are motivations other than public safety behind this mad push to open Rescue 3. 2) The unwillingness of the HFD administration to put firefighter and public safety first opens up the City & County for huge liability.

Thank you,  
Dean Stowell  
Rescue 2 Captain, 1st Platoon  
2442 Halelea Place, Honolulu, HI 96822  
[soglassymarine@gmail.com](mailto:soglassymarine@gmail.com)  
(808)342-6313

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:08 PM  
**Subject:** Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Erik Barton  
Phone 808-864-3008  
Email ebarton@honolulu.gov  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee Council  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written  
Testimony

I am in support of Bill 14. I am currently a Firefighter II on Rescue 2/1st platoon. I've had the opportunity to be a part of the training classes that the current Rescue Captain's have implemented in the past few years. These classes, have been beneficial to me in growing my skill sets in the many disciplines that we are required to know as Rescue personnel. It is very important to me to be able to work with individuals who I feel are capable of doing the job and doing it safely. I stand wholeheartedly behind the Captains and their vision for the future. They just want what's right for us as workers, which is to be able to do our jobs safely and effectively so that we can provide the very important role of helping our community when they need us the most, and also going home to our families at the end of our shift.

If Rescue 3 is added, I believe it needs to be done the right way. Proper training of competent individuals who meet the standard should take place in a well thought out plan that is not rushed.

Thank You, FFII Erik Barton

Testimony  
Attachment

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 5:37 AM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Craig Watson  
Phone 561-6674  
Email craigwatson1@hotmail.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14 hearing  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony  
Aloha,  
With a family member & several friends who work in Fire Rescue at HFD, I was made aware of Council Bill 14 and I fully support it. Having heard many stories of the extremely difficult and dangerous rescues & other operations this critical department performs, I understand that advanced training is essential PRIOR to engaging in such rescue work to ensure the safety of the rest of the rescue team, as well as the victims who end up in their care. For this reason, I humbly ask that Bill 14 be passed.  
Mahalo nui for this opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Testimony Attachment  
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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 10:12 PM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Eric Basta  
Phone 18082206877  
Email bastae001@hawaii.rr.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

6/18/20

Aloha City Council Public Safety Committee Members,

My Name is Eric Basta. I'm a Fire Fighter II Rescue Specialist with the Honolulu Fire Department currently assigned to Rescue 2 second platoon. I've been in HFD for 16 years 5 of which have been on rescue. I am in support of Bill 14. Many Rescue Captains have shown their support for this bill in the interest of keeping their personnel safe. Well, I'm the guy they are trying to keep safe. I have a wife and a two year old son that I wish to go home to after every shift. The training that Bill 14 refers to will keep me safe.

Written Testimony Each member of a rescue team depends on each other. When I'm suspended on a half inch rope, seventy feet below a helicopter that's flying two hundred feet off the ground I need my team mate controlling the rope to know what he is doing. Rope Rescue skills are only one discipline of many that we are trained in. If HFD were to open a third rescue company in a rushed manner I'm afraid that not all personnel will have the proper training. I humbly ask the council members to support Bill 14 in order to keep us safe and in return we can effectively keep the community safe. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,  
Eric Basta

Testimony  
Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 2:23 AM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Gregory Andrasick  
Phone 808-386-3153  
Email gregandrasick@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written  
Testimony

I am writing in support of Bill 14 to provide a formalized plan and standardized training for the Honolulu Fire Department's Rescue Personnel. Being assigned to a Rescue company for 10 years, I have witnessed the growth of our training program to support more efficient, effective, and safer operations. The current training standard is one developed by past and present Rescue Captains over a decade and is consistent with the larger Search and Rescue programs throughout the nation. Formalizing this training and providing Personnel with the support to receive and maintain it will only strengthen our entire Fire Department and continue to grow a Rescue program that Oahu can be proud of.

Testimony  
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CITY COUNCIL

C & C of HONOLULU

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Testimony by  
Jason Racoma

Rescue Captain - R01/2nd Platoon - Honolulu Fire Department

1487 Hi'ikala Pl. Apt43 Honolulu, HI. 96816

Aloha Committee,

I am submitting written testimony for today's meeting because I am unable to attend in person. I would prefer to give verbal testimony at the meeting but I am on duty today.

I am still in support of Bill 14.

HFD administration has provided new leadership for the Rescue program and we were directed by the Safety Committee and Council member Waters to work together to come up with a safe plan moving into the future.

We have had several meetings since then. We have explained our concerns and possible solutions for Rescue's current and future situations to the Chiefs who are now in charge of the Rescue Group.

We have explained that updating the Minimum Qualifications and Position Descriptions and bringing the current (2) Rescue companies personnel up to these standards are first and foremost our immediate concern. The implementation of a third Rescue company is a distant second to this.

The "Road to Rescue 3" plan that has been presented to us does not put the most pressing problems first. I am not in agreement with it. I do agree with taking care of what we have now FIRST.

I feel by passing Bill 14, we will be able to concentrate on the immediate needs first instead of continuously being distracted by a opening third Rescue company that we are by no means ready to stand up.

I appreciate your time and your concern for our safety.

Mahalo Nui,  
Jason Racoma

Jeremey Irvine  
137 Eulu Pl  
Wailuku, HI 96793

June 17, 2020

Public Safety and Welfare Committee  
Online Testimony

Dear Committee Chair,

Mahalo for your concern for the safety and welfare of our Hawaii Fire Fighters. I am writing in SUPPORT of Bill 14.

I am a member of the Hawaii Fire Fighters Association and am currently stationed on Rescue 10 responding out of Kahului, Maui. Although this bill is based in Honolulu, the positive ripple effect it will have state wide is immense.

As a rescue man, we are tasked with doing "different" jobs from most fire fighters in our day to day operations. Job functions such as (but not limited to) helicopter operations, both on land and in the ocean, high surf rescue and recovery, SCUBA, rescue boat operations, high angle rope rescue, mountain rescue, confined space rescue, swift water rescue, vehicle extrication, Urban search and rescue (building/structural collapse) are what we take pride in being PROFESSIONALS at. Moreover, we still respond to structure fires and medical emergencies. As you can see, we are tasked with being EXPERTS in many disciplines.

Many of our job functions are "low frequency/HIGH RISK" meaning that although they might not happen everyday, when they do happen they are the most dangerous and potentially deadly type of incidents in the fire service.

Training is VITAL for the safety of our members! We CAN NOT rely on incidents to be our means of training or the way we "learn our job." If this practice is allowed to happen or is perpetuated I assure you it is not a matter of if, but when a Fire Fighter will be hurt or killed. Also, when our citizens or visitors dial 911 they expect a highly trained professional arriving to help them.

I am not implying our members are incapable of doing these different rescue job functions. I am saying that everyone must be properly trained and given time to practice these disciplines well before ever being asked to do them in a real time, dynamic environment.

I will leave you with this. If your wife or husband, son or daughter walked out the door today and was asked to do a potentially deadly job without ever given any training or time to practice this job, would you pat them on the back and say "go gettum" as they walk out?

Unfortunately, that is exactly what the Honolulu Fire Chief and his administration are doing every single day they allow Rescue 3 to be in service.

Please vote in favor of Bill 14 and vote in favor of Fire Fighter Safety.

Mahalo,

Jeremey Irvine



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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:21 PM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Jesse Makainai III  
Phone 808-728-2331  
Email Jmakainai@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization

Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony I am in support of Bill 14. I currently am on the Rescue truck with the Honolulu Fire Department and know that supporting Bill 14 for the welfare and safety of our first responders and rescue personnel is in the best interest for the city and county of Honolulu and all of our residents that we work to protect and save every day for 24 hours a day.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

John Phillips  
2622 Nonohe Street  
Wahiawa, HI 96786  
(808) 330-9943

June 17, 2020

My name is John Phillips. I am a Rescue Specialist and currently assigned to the Honolulu Fire Department, Rescue 2/3rd Platoon. I was made aware of Council Bill 14 and fully support it. Training is critical for Rescue to maintain safety for firefighters and the public we serve. Also it cannot be overstated when providing emergency services. Where life safety is at risk, competence of the responders should come first and foremost. It would be negligent to forgo the amount and level of training for any reason.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.

  
John Phillips

Nora Phillips  
2622 Nonohe Street  
Wahiawa, HI 96786  
(808) 778-7286

June 17, 2020

My name is Dr. Nora Phillips, and I am writing in support of Council Bill 14. I am married to John Phillips, current Rescue 2 Third Platoon rescue specialist for the Honolulu Fire Department. Specifically, developing standards based off best practices should be implemented immediately, if this has not been done already. Consistency of training, certifications, and qualifications must be upheld for rescue to be competent enough to do their job safely during emergency rescue operations. Passing Council Bill 14 would help ensure my husband will come home safely to his wife and four young children.

Thank you for hearing this testimony

  
Nora Phillips

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 6:25 PM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Kevin McAfee  
Phone 8088704443  
Email kevin\_mcafee@me.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

### Written Testimony

I recently retired from Maui County Fire Department (Battalion Chief) after more than 25 years 'on-the-job'. Of those years of service I spent 9 assigned to a Rescue Company much like those within the Honolulu Fire Department. There is a distinct difference in the job description of a Firefighter vs the assignment to a Rescue Company. Rescue personnel are recruited from the ranks of Firefighters and upon selection are trained and prepared to perform work in an environment with hazards specific to the reasons Rescue personnel exist; Water related emergencies both surface and sub-surface (SCUBA) using boats and PWC's while working in high surf, and at night; Making entry into Confined Spaces wherein a person is trapped below ground or in an elevated environment; Technical rope rigging applied to access persons in elevated positions or drop offs; Helicopter operations to search for and gain access to rescue or recover lost or deceased persons... the role of a Rescue assigned firefighter is simply very specific and requires the specific knowledge, skills and abilities, gained through training and experience, to be 'in place' before being expected to perform the duties. The Fire Service in Hawaii does not place a person in the hazardous environment of fire without very comprehensive training. Why do we not provide the specific training required for Rescue personnel, in a consistent manner, prior to assignment? Often times experience is gained just moments after actually needing it. It is predictable, and therefore preventable, that a Firefighter without the specific skills and knowledge of performing Rescue work can be injured, or killed on the job because of it.

Testimony  
Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 8:08 PM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Kyle Aldridge  
Phone 8083886461  
Email kyle.w.aldridge@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Aloha Council Members,

My name is Kyle Aldridge and as a firefighter in Rescue Company 2, First Watch, I am writing in support of Bill 14.

However, should Rescue 3 open up, I hope that the timeline for adequate and unrushed training time would be of utmost importance. I trust the opinions of the Rescue Captains and their insight on the realistic timeline and effort it takes to adequately train us.

Written Testimony As someone who is newly promoted to Rescue, I know that there are countless hours of training and certifications that I have received to feel prepared for this position. We are constantly training to keep abreast on skills and knowledge of the various rescue disciplines. In the short time I've been serving on Rescue, I can see the diversity of calls and feel the importance of being thoroughly prepared for all situations.

It is extremely important that we are allotted ample time for adequate training because people's lives depend on it.

Mahalo,  
Kyle Aldridge

Testimony  
Attachment

Accept Terms  
and Agreement

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CITY COUNCIL

CITY & COUNTY OF HONOLULU

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY & WELFARE

Testimony by

Nalu Kukea

Current Captain on Honolulu Fire Department Rescue 1

5245 Oio Dr Honolulu Hi 96821, [nkukea@gmail.com](mailto:nkukea@gmail.com), (808) 282-2256

Aloha Councilmembers,

I am submitting written testimony in **support** of Bill 14. This is the third testimony I have given in support of this Bill.

I am writing to say that yes we (the Rescue Captains) have had talks with our administration since Bill 14 was introduced and yes a plan (The Road to Rescue 3) has been developed, but I am not in agreement with the plan. The plan speaks to the training of personnel but the timeline seems very rushed and unrealistic in getting 3 new Rescue company platoons ready to open up. It still seems that the opening of a third Rescue company is more important than making sure that the training of the personnel to do so is done properly and in the manner that we have been doing it the last 4 plus years. We have had a solid training program in place to address the multiple disciplines that we can encounter on Rescue, but currently all of this training is on hold since we brought up our concerns in 2019. We have not held one class to continue to train our current Rescue personnel or Rescue relievers for at least 8 months, how can we expect to staff a new Rescue squad without this training for even more personnel?

Mahalo Nalu Kukea

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 7:04 PM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Pohai Shultz  
Phone 8082773402  
Email pohaiaks@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written  
Testimony

Aloha,  
I'm writing in support of Bill 14 to require a rigorous level of training for all firefighters. Particularly during this pandemic, a high level of training is required to keep both firefighters and the community safe. Particularly for personnel in Rescue, where saving people involves a high level of risk and dynamic and unpredictable situations, a high level of training is required to keep everyone safe. Changing or lowering these standards could put our first responders at risk at a time when we need them the most.  
Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this important bill,  
Pohai Shultz

Testimony  
Attachment  
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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:37 PM  
**Subject:** Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Suzanne Maurer  
Phone 808-395-9527  
Email suzanne.maurer@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee Council  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony Our family has been blessed to be close to Fire Rescue for 3 generations. Ensuring the proper training for firefighters and especially for Rescue personnel greatly impacts and ensures the highest degree of firefighter safety. Every crew member depends on the rest of the crew to help keep everyone safe. The Public depends on firefighters being properly trained.  
Please pass Bill 14 it is urgent

Testimony Attachment

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IP: 192.168.200.67



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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 9:26 PM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name William Melemai  
Phone 808-282-2754  
Email wmelemai@yahoo.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written  
Testimony

Aloha council members,

My name is William Melemai and I'm a current Firefighter 2 on HFDs Search and Rescue squad. I'm in favor of Bill 14 and fully support our Rescue Captains. Our job on Rescue is inherently dangerous and it's our training and experience that keeps us safe. Training that needs to be done on a continuous basis to maintain a highly skilled squad and updated to keep up with industry standards. Experience that's gained through relieving and training with rescue squads. I know our HFD administration is rushing the process to staff an additional Rescue company without listening to the safety concerns of Firefighters and Rescue Captains.

Thank you

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 8:47 AM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Blake Takahashi  
Phone 8083919939  
Email Blakeakt@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 06-06-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Bill 14 Testimony  
June 17, 2020

Aloha City Council Members,

This written testimony is to provide my full support of Bill 14 which puts the priority on the training and competency of our current Rescue personnel before even considering the opening of a third Rescue company. This “nice to have” Rescue 3 is being pushed at a time when we do not have adequately trained and experienced personnel to fill it nor do we have a proper station to be housed at.

Written  
Testimony

The millions of dollars it will cost to staff Rescue 3 every year might be better spent elsewhere during this time of economic uncertainty. This holds true especially when we consider the liability the City will take on by allowing a technical rescue company to open with personnel who are not trained to the standard that has been set by the HFD and the Rescue Captains who came before us.

While a plan has been put together to open up Rescue 3, it is not our plan. We have voiced our concerns over its unrealistic timeline and it’s direct focus on Rescue 3 instead of the current Rescue squads. We fear the standards will be lowered and minimum qualifications will be lessened. Bill 14 puts safety first, above all else.

The work that the technical rescue companies do is typically high risk with high consequence. We rely on training, knowledge and experience to help provide sound

judgment. Bill 14 will help to provide all of these things by solidifying a training plan and putting the focus on the safety of the personnel and the public that we serve.

Respectfully,  
Blake Takahashi  
Captain, Rescue 1, 1st Platoon

Testimony  
Attachment  
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 8:46 AM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name	Donna Melemai
Phone	284-2617
Email	dmelemai@yahoo.com
Meeting Date	06-18-2020
Council/PH Committee	PublicSafety
Agenda Item	Bill 14 (2020)
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Self
Organization	
Do you wish to speak at the hearing?	No
Written Testimony	I am in strong support of Bill 14 (2020) and encourage this committee to forward it for immediate and final passage.
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement	1

IP: 192.168.200.67

John Kino  
333 Nenu Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96821  
Bill 14

Relating to Firefighters and Rescue Operations

As a retired Battalion Chief who served many years on a Rescue Squad as a Firefighter II (Rescue Technician), Firefighter III (Rescue Engineer), Rescue Captain, and as a Battalion Chief overseeing the Rescue Program, I am in firm support of Bill 14. The safety of all firefighters is paramount and personnel assigned to a Rescue Company should be trained and certified to the highest standards possible.

I believe that all Rescue personnel should be given the Technical Expertise that they need to conduct their Rescue Operations Safely and Competently. We need to ensure that all Rescue personnel shall have or be in the process of obtaining the requisite training, qualifications, and certifications to be rescue company personnel. It is imperative that they receive this training prior to assignment so that they can safely and competently perform their designated tasks.

If the Honolulu Fire Department is truly concerned about the Safety of personnel then they should ensure that they identify and assess the training, qualifications and certifications necessary for those personnel assigned to a designated Rescue Company. Rescue work is very dangerous and requires that all personnel assigned be trained to the highest possible standards.

Each and every one of the current Rescue disciplines were identified and justified for their merit and all of the training is done to current best practices. Over the last 20 years we have tried to ensure that everyone assigned to a Rescue Company was properly trained and ready to respond to an incident with the best equipment and training possible. It would be a shame to step back and lower the standards at this time. We have the opportunity to use this discretionary time to ensure that all Rescue personnel are given the proper training to do their jobs safely. We have a duty to the public to ensure that they are getting the best possible service when they make that 911 call for help. We have a duty to the families of all fire fighters to ensure that each and every firefighter is properly trained and ready to respond all hours of the day or night.

The Honolulu Fire Department is an Accredited department. Accreditation shows our community that we are dedicated to continuous improvement, adhering to industry best practices and holding ourselves accountable for the service we provide. We have to have the courage to be safe and provide a safe working environment for our firefighters.

It is time to do the right thing and ensure that all Rescue personnel are trained properly and that, "Everyone Goes Home". No First Responder family needs to deal with the consequence of a serious line of duty injury or death. Not when we have the opportunity at this time to ensure that the proper preparation and training can be done.

I would like to inform the Council members that the "Honolulu Fire Department Strategic Plan 2019-2024" is available for them to review. It takes up too much memory and cannot be attached here. It is a very important document and guides the HFD. I would like you to be aware of the "Mission and Vision Statement" and also the Five Core Values (Safety, Teamwork, Integrity, Competency, Commitment). Please review this document as you make a decision on this Bill.

Thank You  
John Kin0

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:13 AM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Christopher Johnson  
Phone 8084979502  
Email Chris@chrisjohnsonphoto.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony I support Bill 14 and believe that it will improve the Honolulu Fire Department Rescue training program. With the additional training and guidelines for professional development I believe it will create safer and more effective Rescue Squads.

Testimony

Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 9:28 AM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Aaron Booth  
Phone 8083694880  
Email abooth@honolulu.gov  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written  
Testimony

My name is Aaron Booth and I am a current Rescue Technician on Rescue 2/1 with the Honolulu Fire Department. I would like to express my support for the Rescue Captains as well as their concerns and plans regarding training, or lack of, and the formation of a third Rescue squad. I fully support Bill 14. Thank you for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Firefighter 2 Aaron Booth  
Rescue 2/1

Testimony  
Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 10:38 AM  
**Subject:** Public Safety and Welfare Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Charles Spain  
Phone 808-896-5931  
Email cnmspain@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Committee PublicSafety  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Organization  
Organization HFFA  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

### Written Testimony

As a retired Rescue Captain for the Hawai'i Fire Department with over ten years of experience leading a rescue company, in both the Kona and Hilo districts, I stand in strong support of Bill 14. The rescue Companies are viewed by the public and their peer Firefighters as a highly trained group that possess the knowledge, skills, and abilities that are above and beyond the average. Who are able to respond and safely overcome the most challenging types of incidents. These scenarios expose personnel to extreme hazards that require extensive and continuous training. Situations such as High Angle rappelling, SCUBA diving, confined spaces, swift water, Helicopter operations, and usually a combination of these. Attempting to staff a rescue company with undertrained personnel is inviting extreme liability on those that make that decision. Please support Bill 14 to help protect the public and Firefighters safety.

### Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67



Bill 14 Testimony

June 18, 2020

Aloha City Council Members-

My name is Kala'I Miller and I am writing you as one of six Honolulu Fire Department Rescue Captains. I remain in full support of Bill 14 on behalf of myself and the men that serve under my command.

While there have been several meetings where the Six Rescue Captains continue to raise our concerns in a unified voice, there seems to be little movement on the part of the Administration to address these concerns. Instead, the Administration seems transfixed on establishing a Third Rescue Company. I DO NOT agree with the "Road to Rescue 3" plan because the focus is misled and it fails to prioritize the addressing of current needs.

The facts are that we are unaware that there is a "real" need for a Third Rescue Company. Statistics provided by the Administration are misleading and arbitrary at best. The larger concern is that before we concern ourselves with trying to staff and additional company, HFD needs to ensure that we staff current Rescue Companies with properly trained personnel.

The most valuable asset any Fire Department has are its people. Many of the current personnel assigned, to Rescue Companies, including relievers, are lacking proper training and experience. The existing needs of our personnel must be addressed before we can entertain the idea of cultivating more personnel for an additional Rescue Company.

The Rescue Group has a training plan that has been developed and honed over the last several years to meet our needs. It provides personnel with Technician Level instruction and real world time and experience which combine to produce capable staffing for our Crews. This plan doesn't fit the Administration's accelerated timeline for Rescue 3. So instead, they plan to reduce minimum qualifications and downgrade training standards so that a new company can be "fast tracked". The six Rescue Captains do not agree with this acceleration because we know it will jeopardize the public and the lives of our firefighters. The Administration's plan is simply unsafe.

It boils down to this: HFD needs to focus on the proper training for current Rescue personnel and relievers and put off the opening of additional companies until there is appropriate trained staffing available. Our current HFD Administration has demonstrated themselves to be incapable of addressing these priorities and unwilling to make firefighter safety more important than opening "Rescue 3".

This is why I continue to be in full support of Bill 14. It protects our Rescue personnel and the public we serve by having our "leadership" do what is right.

Thank you for your time and concern-

Clifford Kala'I Miller  
Captain, Rescue 2/2

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 4:28 PM  
**Subject:** Council/Public Hearing Speaker Registration/Testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Stephen Maurer  
Phone 8083717882  
Email stephenmaurer@mac.com  
Meeting Date 06-18-2020  
Council/PH Council  
Committee  
Agenda Item Bill 14  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Written Testimony I have both a brother and brother-in-law that are captains in the HFD. One is a rescue captain. I am concerned about the special training that is necessary for the unique situations the the rescue firefighters encounter. Without the proper training, lives will be put at risk. With that in mind, I support Bill 14. Mahalo.

Testimony Attachment

Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67